

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1189

INFO/RUFHOM AMEMBASSY ROME 885

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0351

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN IT

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CLOSING ELI LILLY PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY
NEAR FLORENCE

REF: FLORENCE 340

1. UNDER HEADLINE READING QUOTE TWO USA FIRMS CLOSE DOWN
IN TUSCANY UNQUOTE, COMMUNIST-LINE NEWSPAPER PAESE SERA
ALLEGES THAT ELI LILLY PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY IN SUBURB
OF FLORENCE IS PREPARING TO CLOSE DOWN AND IS ALREADY
SHIPPING FACTORY MACHINERY TO IRAN WHERE LABOR COSTS ARE
LOWER AND LABOR UNION AGITATION LESS LIKELY. ARTICLE
ATTEMPTS LINK THIS ALLEGED CLOSEDOWN WITH ACTUAL CLOSING
AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICE FLORENCE (REFTEL). IN ADDITION
ALLEGATIONS FACTORY PLANS CLOSEDOWN, ARTICLE STATES NINE
EMPLOYEES ALREADY DISMISSED.

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2. ACTUAL FACTS QUITE CONTRARY TO TEXT OF ARTICLE. SOMETIME
AGO ELI LILLY FORCED CLOSE CAPSULE FABRICATION PORTION
OF FACTORY BUT NONE RPT NONE OF 40 WORKERS
EMPLOYED THERE WERE DISMISSED. RATHER ALL EMPLOYEES WERE
GIVEN OPTION OF VOLUNATARILY RESIGNING WITH BONUS OF NINE
MONTHS PAY. TO DATE NINE EMPLOYEES HAVE VOLUNTARILY
RESIGNED, SOME FROM PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING PORTION
FACTORY AND SOME FROM CAPSULE FABRICATION PORTION. ELI
LILLY HOPES EVENTUAL ATTRITION THROUGH RETIREMENT AND
VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION PLUS RETRAINING OF EMPLOYEES
WILL PREVENT ANY DISMISSALS. AS REGARDS ALLEGATION ELI
LILLY HAD BEGUN DISMANTLING FACTORY AND SHIPPING IT VIA
TRUCK TO IRAN, FACTS ARE THAT TRUCKS SEEN LEAVING FACTORY
FOR IRAN CONTAIN MEDICINE BOTTLES MANUFACTURED IN ITALY AAND
RAW MATERIAL FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTX, VAST MAJORITY OF
WHICH ORIGINATED IN ITALY. THUS, RATHER THAN DISPLACING
ITALIAN EMPLOYEES WITH IRANIANS AS ALLEGED, SHIPMENT
RESULTED IN ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT IN ITALY OWING TO
ITALIAN ORIGIN SHIPMENTS.

3. AT OUR SUGGESTION ELI LILLY OFFICIALS FLORENCE AND
ROME NOW PREPARING STATEMENT REBUTTING DISTORTED REPORTING
BY PAESE SERA. STATEMENT WILL BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ADDITION PRESS.
GORDON

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